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## Some Additional Records of Harvest Mice (Genus *Reithrodontomys*) in the Mississippi River Valley\*

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Harvest mice recently collected in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi provided important additional information on the geographic distribution of two species of *Reithrodontomys*.

Specimens of *Reithrodontomys humulis* were obtained for the first time, to our knowledge, in extreme western Tennessee and western Kentucky. On April 5, 1950, the senior author obtained one (8-5-IV-50, L. S. Miller) from three and one-half miles east of Open Lake, Lauderdale County, Tennessee, in a small apple orchard grown up with blue grass. One mile west of the above locality (2 miles east of Open Lake) on the same date, I. Lester Firschein collected another (12-5-IV-50, L. S. Miller) on a hillside covered with a heavy growth of bluestem grass (*Andropogon furcatus*). On March 11, 1950, the junior author collected one (48, William B. Robertson) from a similar habitat six and four-fifths miles east of Paducah, in Livingston County, Kentucky. Previously, *Reithrodontomys humulis* has been reported in these states only as far west as Pulaski, in south central Tennessee (Kellogg, 1939), and Lexington, in central Kentucky (Howell, 1914). In Hooper's (1943) revision of the species *humulis*, mention of these two records is omitted. Hooper apparently did not examine specimens from any Kentucky localities, or from Tennessee localities other than extreme eastern ones (Carter and Jefferson counties).

Howell (1914) has referred the three above-mentioned Lexington, Kentucky, specimens to *R. humulis merriami*, and figured the range of this subspecies as extending across central Tennessee and Kentucky to extreme western West Virginia. Subsequently, Kellogg (*op. cit.*) has included specimens from Pulaski (Giles County), Tennessee, in *R. humulis humulis*, and Hooper

\*Contribution from the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History and Department of Zoology, Urbana, Illinois.

TABLE I

Locality	Date	sex	Total length*	Tail length	Hind foot	Ear basal length	Condylar skull breadth	Zygomatic breadth	Length nasal
<i>Ithrodontomys humulis humulis</i>									
3½ mi. east Open Lake Lauderdale Co., Tenn.	Apr. 5, 1950	♂†	112	50	16	12	16.8	7.6	10.3
2 mi. east Open Lake, Lauderdale Co., Tenn.	Apr. 5, 1950	♂†	129	54	16	13	17.0	8.0	9.9
6 4/5 mi. east Paducah, Livingston Co., Ky.	Mar. 11, 1950	♀†	108	47	15	12	15.6	7.4	9.5
Farmers, Rowan Co., Kv.	Nov. 26, 1949	average 2♂†, 1♀	117	16	12	16.1	7.5	9.5	6.5
<i>Reithrodontomys fulvescens aurantius</i>									
Washington, Adams Co., Miss.	Apr. 6, 1950	♂†	146	18	14	17.6	8.4	11.5	8.1
Washington, Adams Co., Miss.	Apr. 6, 1950	♂†	160	20	14	17.9	8.7	11.4	8.8
Stillwell, Adair Co., Okla.	Apr. 10, 1950	min. 3 ♂† av. 2 ♀ max.	150 166 174	78 92 104	20 20 21	14 14 15	18.0 18.8 19.5	8.6 8.7 8.9	11.2 11.6 12.0

\*All measurements are in mm.  
†Subadult.

(*op. cit.*) has also allocated material from Alabama and eastern Louisiana to this form, thereby restricting the range of *R. b. merriami* to the coastal region of the Gulf west of the Mississippi River.

Table I shows skin and skull measurements of specimens from western Kentucky and Tennessee and average measurements of three from eastern Kentucky (Farmers, Rowan County). Comparison reveals a close agreement between western Tennessee-Kentucky, and eastern Kentucky specimens. Specimens from Rowan County, Kentucky, were placed in *R. b. humulis* by Welter and Sollberger (1935), and in addition this locality is in close geographic proximity to populations of harvest mice in Ohio and West Virginia considered by Hooper to represent *R. b. humulis*. The close agreement indicates that populations of western Tennessee and Kentucky are also to be referred to *R. b. humulis*. In coloration of pelage the western examples are slightly grayer dorsally, but do not vary in this character beyond expected seasonal differences.

*Reithrodontomys fulvescens* was obtained April 6, 1950, at Washington, Adams County, Mississippi. The senior author and Mr. Firschein trapped two specimens (9-6-IV-50 and 11-6-IV-50, L. S. Miller) in a large tract of high prairie. This is one of the few records for this species of harvest mouse on the east side of the Mississippi River. Lowery (1943) records specimens from counties east of Baton Rouge, in Louisiana, and Hooper has stated (in correspondence) that he has specimens from Copiah County, Mississippi. The present specimens are referred to *Reithrodontomys fulvescens aurantius*. Table I shows skin and skull measurements of the two Mississippi specimens in comparison with the average and extreme measurements of a series of five *R. fulvescens aurantius* taken by the senior author at Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma.

All specimens mentioned in this paper have been deposited in the Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois.

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